

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) A tube suitable for use in a medical appliance which is sterilized when in use consisting of two different layers of resin, wherein

resin (I) comprises:

- (a) 5 to 40 mass% of a polypropylene resin and
- (b) 95 to 60 mass% of at least one hydrogenated copolymer selected from the group consisting of:
 - (i) a first hydrogenated block copolymer comprising a hydrogenated block copolymer formed of (A) a polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and (B) an isoprene polymer block,
 - (ii) a second hydrogenated block copolymer comprising a hydrogenated block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and (C) a polymer block from isoprene and butadiene,
 - (iii) a third hydrogenated block copolymer comprising a hydrogenated block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and a butadiene polymer block, and

resin (II) comprises:

- (a') 45 to 100 mass% of a polypropylene resin and
- (b') 55 to 0 mass % of the above at least one hydrogenated copolymer;

wherein said tube has (i) a tube/tube shear peel strength of less than 35 N, as measured on a stuck or adhered portion of the outermost layer of one said tube against the

outermost layer of another said tube after autoclave sterilization at 121°C for 20 minutes, and has (ii) a tube/film 180° peel strength of less than 10 N, as measured on a stuck or adhered portion of the outermost layer of said tube and innermost polypropylene layer of a sterilization bag, by the test method defined in JIS K6854 after autoclave sterilization at 121°C for 20 minutes,

wherein said resin (I) forming a thick substrate layer and resin (II) forming a connection layer thinner than the substrate layer, the connection layer being capable of connecting to another tube or article by hot melt bonding, solvent bonding or adhesive bonding,

wherein said tube can form an arc having a radius of 20 mm without kinking,
thereby the tube showing good resistance against tube/tube sticking and tube/film sticking after high-pressure sterilization.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The tube of Claim 18, wherein resin (I) forms the inner layer.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The tube of Claim 18, wherein resin (I) forms the outer layer.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein the thickness ratio of the inner layer to the outer layer is in the range of 940 - 980/60 - 20.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein resin (II) contains 45 to 70 mass% of the polypropylene resin and 55 to 30 mass% of the at least one hydrogenated copolymer.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein resin (II) contains 70 to 100 mass% of the polypropylene resin and 30 to 0 mass% of the at least one hydrogenated copolymer.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (I) is a first hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer formed of said (A) a polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and said (B) isoprene polymer block.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (I) is a second hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and said (C) polymer block from isoprene and butadiene.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (I) is a third hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and a butadiene polymer block.

Claim 27 (Cancelled):

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (II) is a first hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a

block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and said (B) isoprene polymer block.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (II) is a second hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and said (C) polymer block from isoprene and butadiene.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (II) is a third hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and a butadiene polymer block.

Claim 31 (Cancelled):

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein said first hydrogenated block copolymer has a vinyl aromatic compound component content of 10 to 40 mass %, the isoprene polymer block (B) has a 1,2-bond and 2,4-bond content of 10 to 75 mol%, and at least 70 % of carbon-carbon double bonds of the block copolymer are hydrogenated.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The tube of Claim 18, wherein said second hydrogenated block copolymer has a vinyl aromatic compound component content of 10 to 40 mass%, the polymer block (C) has an isoprene component/butadiene component weight

ratio of 5/95 to 95/5 and a 1,2-bond and 3,4-bond content of 20 to 85 mol%, and at least 70 % of carbon-carbon double bonds of the block copolymer are hydrogenated.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein said third hydrogenated block copolymer has a vinyl aromatic compound component content of 10 to 40 mass%, the butadiene polymer block (D) has a 1,2-bond content of at least 30 mol%, and at least 70 % of carbon-carbon double bonds of the block copolymer are hydrogenated.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein said vinyl aromatic compound is styrene.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18, wherein the polypropylene resin in resin (I) has a bending flexural modulus of 200 to 400 MPa and the polypropylene resin in resin (II) has a flexural modulus of 500 to 900 MPa.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 18 that has been sterilized.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A medical device comprising the tube of claim 18 connected to at least one other member.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The medical device of claim 38, wherein said one other member being selected from the group consisting of a blood tube, an infusion tube, a catheter, and a balloon catheter.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): A circuit for extracorporeal circulation comprising the tube of claim 18.

41. (Currently Amended): A tube consisting of an inner, intermediate and outer resin layer, wherein the inner and outer layers are made of resin (II) and the intermediate layer is formed of resin (I),

wherein

resin (I) comprises:

(a) 5 to 40 mass% of a polypropylene resin and

(b) 95 to 60 mass% of at least one hydrogenated copolymer selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a first hydrogenated block copolymer comprising a hydrogenated block copolymer formed of (A) a polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and (B) an isoprene polymer block,

(ii) a second hydrogenated block copolymer comprising a hydrogenated block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and (C) a polymer block from isoprene and butadiene,

(iii) a third hydrogenated block copolymer comprising a hydrogenated block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and a butadiene polymer block, and

resin (II) comprises:

45 to 100 mass% of a polypropylene resin and

55 to 0 mass % of the above at least one hydrogenated copolymer,

wherein said tube has (i) tube/tube a shear peel strength of less than 35 N, as measured on a stuck or adhered portion of the outermost layer of one said tube against the

outermost layer of another said tube after autoclave sterilization at 121°C for 20 minutes, and has (ii) a tube/film 180° peel strength of less than 10 N, as measured on a stuck or adhered portion of the outermost layer of said tube and an innermost polypropylene layer of a sterilization bag, by the test method defined in JIS K6854 after autoclave sterilization at 121°C for 20 minutes,

wherein said resin (I) forming a thick substrate layer and resin (II) forming a connection layer thinner than the substrate layer, the connection layer being capable of connecting to another tube or article by hot melt bonding, solvent bonding or adhesive bonding,

wherein said tube can form an arc having a radius of 20 mm without kinking,
thereby the tube showing good resistance against tube/tube sticking and tube/film sticking after high-pressure sterilization.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein said resin (II) contains 45 to 70 mass% of the polypropylene resin and 55 to 30 mass% of the at least one hydrogenated copolymer.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein said resin (II) is used as an inner layer and contains 70 to 100 mass% of the polypropylene resin and 30 to 0 mass% of the at least one hydrogenated copolymer.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein the tube has an outer layer/intermediate layer/inner layer thickness ratio of 20 - 30/940 - 960/20 - 30.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The tube of claim 41, wherein

resin (II), which forms an outer layer, contains 45 to 70 mass% of the polypropylene resin and 55 to 30 mass% of the at least one hydrogenated copolymer;

resin (I), which forms an intermediate layer, contains 5 to 40 mass% of the polypropylene resin and 95 to 60 mass% of the at least one hydrogenated copolymer; and

resin (II), which forms an inner layer ~~is a layer~~ contains 70 to 100 mass% of the polypropylene resin and 30 to 0 mass% of the hydrogenated copolymer.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein said first hydrogenated block copolymer has a vinyl aromatic compound component content of 10 to 40 mass%, the isoprene polymer block (B) has a 1,2-bond and 2,4-bond content of 10 to 75 mol%, and at least 70 % of carbon-carbon double bonds of the first block copolymer are hydrogenated.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein said second hydrogenated block copolymer has a vinyl aromatic compound component content of 10 to 40 mass%, the polymer block (C) has an isoprene component/butadiene component weight ratio of 5/95 to 95/5 and has a 1,2-bond and 3,4-bond content of 20 to 85 mol%, and at least 70 % of carbon-carbon double bonds of the second block copolymer are hydrogenated.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein said third hydrogenated block copolymer has a vinyl aromatic compound component content of 10 to 40 mass%, the butadiene polymer block (D) has a 1,2-bond content of at least 30 mol%, and at least 70 % of carbon-carbon double bonds of the third block copolymer are hydrogenated.

- Application No. 09/926,817
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Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (I) is a first hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and said (B) isoprene polymer block.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (I) is a second hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and said (C) a polymer block from isoprene and butadiene.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (I) is a third hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and a butadiene polymer block.

Claim 52 (Cancelled):

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (II) is a first hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer formed of said (A) a polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and said (B) an isoprene polymer block.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (II) is a second hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating

a block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and (C) a polymer block from isoprene and butadiene.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein the hydrogenated copolymer of resin (II) is a third hydrogenated block copolymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer formed of said (A) polymer block from a vinyl aromatic compound and a butadiene polymer block.

Claim 56 (Cancelled):

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein said vinyl aromatic compound is styrene.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41, wherein the polypropylene resin in resin (I) has a bending flexural modulus of 200 to 400 MPa and the polypropylene resin in resin (II) has a flexural modulus of 500 to 900 MPa.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): The tube of claim 41 that has been sterilized.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): A medical device comprising the tube of claim 41 connected to at least one other member.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): The medical device of claim 60, wherein said one other member is selected from the group consisting of a blood tube, an infusion tube, a catheter, and a balloon catheter.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): A circuit for extracorporeal circulation comprising the tube of claim 41.